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Book Notices.

The Jews under Roman Rule.

The Jews under Roman Rule. By W. D. Morrison. "Story of the Nations" series. New York: G. P. Putman's Sons. Pp. xxv., 426. Price \$1.50.

The period covered by this volume is substantially that of the New Testament History. This fact gives it a peculiar importance in the eyes of the biblical student. It is well nigh impossible to recommend any one book which adequately supplies the materials for making the background of the New Testament life—a book which is within the purse of the average student. There are Schürer and Hausrath, whose books are standard so far as value of material and fullness of it are concerned, but they are costly. Stapfer's "Palestine in the Time of Christ" is comprehensive and generally trustworthy, but it tries to cover a good deal of ground, and its brevity in particulars is sometimes trying. It is also a high-priced volume. Other cheaper books which might be mentioned are out of date and untrustworthy.

Will this new issue in the "Story of the Nations" series help to fill the gap at this point? Let us notice the material it contains. It is divided into two parts. Part I. is entitled "Roman Rule," and in seven chapters gives the history of Rome's relations to Palestine from B. C. 164, the time of the Maccabæan revolt, to A. D. 135, the revolt of Bar-Kokheba and Akiba. In Part II., entitled "The Structure of Jewish Society under the Romans," ten chapters discuss the following topics: The Sanhedrin, or Supreme National Council; The Temple; The Synagogue; The Law and Tradition; The Teachers of the Law (Scribes); The Pharisees and Sadducees; The Essenes; The People; The Messianic Hope; The Jews Abroad. In these latter chapters the historical method is carefully followed. The origin and growth of these institutions, sects, ideas or parties, as the case may be, are traced out in quite a little detail. The writer has had at hand the latest and best authorities, and has relied on them, yet with the exercise of an independent judgment. Over fifty illustrations, some of them of much value, increase the usefulness and beauty of the volume, which is finely printed. An index of ten pages is added. It seems that this book, both by the fullness of the material it contains, and on account of the reasonable price at which it is issued, is to be numbered among those volumes which any intelligent Bible student can purchase and ought to own. It is worthy of much commendation. For Sunday-school libraries and teachers it is invaluable. It should have a permanent place in popular biblical literature as an aid in the better understanding of New Testament life and thought.